

Application No. 10/706,045
July 30, 2007
Reply to the Office Action dated April 23, 2007
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 5-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends Claim 1, and cancels Claims 2-4.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features on the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (U.S. 2002/0079981) in view of Takase (JP 2002-270465). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka and Takase, and further in view of Sreeram et al. (U.S. 5,858,145).

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include all of the features of allowable Claim 4 and intervening Claims 2 and 3, and canceled Claims 2-4.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Takase is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 5-12 depend upon Claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a One-Month Extension of Time, extending to August 23, 2007, the period for response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2007.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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